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# News Releases and other News Material

Number 7393

July 12 - July 16, 1993

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For further information about this booklet contact Charles Hobbs, editor, News Division, Office of Public Affairs, Room 406-A, U.S Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250 or call (202) 720-4026.

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## Release News-

Release No. 0558.93

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Steve Lombardi (202) 720-4026

### USDA DECLARES ORIENTAL FRUIT FLY ERADICATED FROM CALIFORNIA

WASHINGTON, July 12--The U.S. Department of Agriculture has announced that the Oriental fruit fly has been eradicated from San Diego County, Calif.

An infestation of this destructive pest of fruits, nuts, and berries was brought under control in a cooperative effort of the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and the California Department of Food and Agriculture.

"Quarantine restrictions designed to prevent the spread of the Oriental fruit fly are no longer necessary," said B. Glen Lee, deputy administrator for APHIS' plant protection and quarantine program. "The regulations placed restrictions on the interstate movement of regulated articles."

An Oriental fruit fly was last found in the San Diego area on Dec. 2, 1992. Oriental fruit flies are not known to exist anywhere in the continental United States.

A Federal Register notice announcing the eradication was published as an interim rule in the July 8 Federal Register.

Written comments are welcome and will be accepted until Sept. 7. One original and three copies of any comments should be sent to Chief, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, USDA, Room 804 Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md. 20782. Comments should refer to docket number 91-149-5.

Comments received may be reviewed at USDA, Room 1141, South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue S.W., Washington, D.C., between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.



Release No. 0559.93

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### USDA ASKS FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS ON IMPORTING CATTLE EMBRYOS AND SEMEN

WASHINGTON, July 12--The U.S. Department of Agriculture has formally requested that interested persons submit comments on the rules that govern the importation of the embryos and semen of cattle.

"Science is moving fast in this area," said Billy Johnson, deputy administrator for veterinary services in USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. "Even though we updated the regulations two years ago, we think it may be time to review them again and make changes or additions to reflect new technology."

All aspects will be looked at, Johnson said. This includes the practicability of importing cattle embryos and semen, and the animal health ramifications.

Johnson explained that importing cattle embryos and semen costs much less than importing live cattle and quarantining them after arrival. High-tech approaches also greatly reduce the risk of disease and pest transmission.

To transfer an embryo between countries, it is flushed from a cow in the country of origin and frozen. At its U.S. destination, the embryo is thawed and transferred to the reproductive tract of a domestic cow. The calf that the domestic cow produces has the genetic makeup of its foreign parents and may not resemble the birth mother.

To export semen, technicians collect samples from a bull with desired genetic capacity, freeze them, and ship them to the United States for artificial insemination into a domestic cow. The characteristics of the offspring are half that of each parent.

Donor cows and sires have to meet certain U.S. health requirements, and collection of embryos and semen has to be supervised by an official



veterinarian of the exporting country. Processing must follow specific guidelines to minimize the possibility of disease transmission.

Notice of this action was published in the July 8 Federal Register as Docket 93-047-1. Existing regulations can be found in Chapter 9 of the Code of Federal Regulations (9 CFR part 98) and can be obtained by writing Roger Perkins, National Center for Import-Export, VS, APHIS, USDA, 765 Federal Building, Hyattsville, Md. 20782.

Written comments will be accepted if received on or before Sept. 7. An original and three copies should be sent to Chief, Regulatory Analysis and Development, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, 804 Federal Building, Hyattsville, MD 20782.

Comments received may be inspected at USDA, 1141 South Building, 14th and Independence Avenue S.W., Washington D.C., between 8:00 and 4:30, Monday through Friday (telephone 202/690-2817 to make arrangements).



Release No. 0560.93  
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#### **USDA PROPOSES TO DECLARE NEW CALEDONIA FREE OF TWO ANIMAL DISEASES**

WASHINGTON, July 12--The U.S. Department of Agriculture has proposed to declare the Pacific island of New Caledonia free of rinderpest and foot-and-mouth disease, two communicable animal diseases.

"This proposal eases restrictions on certain meat and dairy products exported from New Caledonia to the United States," said Billy G. Johnson, deputy administrator of veterinary services in USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

New Caledonia, an island territory of France, has its own animal health and veterinary program, and APHIS officials consider it effective. Although both rinderpest and foot-and-mouth disease are considered to exist in France, New Caledonia has never reported an outbreak of either disease.

Johnson said under this revision the United States would no longer prohibit the importation of milk, milk products, and most fresh, chilled, and frozen meat products from ruminants in New Caledonia.

Johnson said that APHIS would continue to restrict the importation of live swine and fresh, chilled, or frozen pork from the island because of the presence of hog cholera and swine vesicular disease in France.

New Caledonia has a game ranching industry, and this proposed rule would also allow venison to be exported to the United States, Johnson said.

The proposed was published in the July 8 Federal Register. Comments received on or before Sept. 9 will be considered. To submit a comment, send an original and three copies of comments referring to docket number 92-197-1 to Chief, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, USDA, Room 804 Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md. 20782.

Comments may be reviewed between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays, at USDA, Room 1141, South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. Persons wishing to inspect comments are encouraged to call ahead (202-690-2817) to facilitate entry into the reading room.



Release No. 0561.93

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**USDA INSPECTS MISSOURI COTTON CROPS AND EQUIPMENT FOR PINK BOLLWORM**

WASHINGTON, July 12--Federal and state inspectors are inspecting all cotton crops and cotton production equipment in Missouri before they can leave the state because of an infestation of pink bollworm, a destructive pest of cotton, a USDA official said today.

"This quarantine action is necessary to prevent the interstate movement of pink bollworm into noninfested areas," said B. Glen Lee, deputy administrator of the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's plant protection and quarantine program.

Regulated items include cotton and cotton seed. Inspectors must inspect and certify these items before they can leave the state. Cotton-harvest equipment, cotton ginning equipment and cotton oil mill equipment are also regulated.

By reviewing survey data, federal and state officials established that the pink bollworm has spread into Dunklin County, Mo. Originating in Mexico, the pink bollworm spread to the United States in 1917. It now exists in most of the cotton-producing states west of the Mississippi River. A quarantine is in place in those areas as well.

The quarantine was announced in an interim rule published in the July 8 Federal Register.

Written comments will be accepted if they are received on or before Sept. 7. An original and three copies should be sent to Chief, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, USDA, Room 804 Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md. 20782. The comments should refer to docket number 93-066-1.

Comments received may be reviewed at USDA, Room 1141 South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C., between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.



Release No. 0562.93

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**USDA SEEKS COMMENTS ON 1993 SUPPORT PRICES FOR WOOL AND MOHAIR**

WASHINGTON, July 12 -- The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation today asked the public to comment on how to calculate the support price for wool on unshorn lambs and the level of support for mohair for the 1993 marketing year.

The National Wool Act of 1954, as amended, provides that the support price for pulled wool -- the wool removed from the pelt of a slaughtered sheep -- be set at a level relative to the support price for shorn wool that will maintain pulled wool marketing practices. This provision was implemented in the past through payments based on the weight of live, unshorn lambs.

The law also provides that the mohair price supports be set at a level to maintain about the same percentage of parity as for shorn wool and that the support price be set not more than 15 percent above or below the comparable percentage of parity for shorn wool.

The shorn wool support price is based on a formula prescribed in the law. Based on the current reported parity index, the 1993 shorn wool support price will be \$2.04 per pound (grease basis).

The complete proposed regulations are scheduled to be published in the July 14 Federal Register.

Public comments on the proposed regulations must be received by Aug. 13, 1993, and should be sent to: Director, Fibers and Rice Analysis Division, USDA/ASCS, Room 3760-S, P.O. Box 2415, Washington, D.C. Phone (202) 720-6734. A preliminary regulatory impact analysis on the options is also available from that office.

Public comments will be available for inspection in Room 3756-S during normal business hours. Contact: Janise Zygmunt (202) 720-6734.





**AFRICANIZED HONEYBEES CONFIRMED IN SECOND STATE, FOUND NEAR SASABE, ARIZONA**

WASHINGTON, July 12--The spread of Africanized honeybees (AHBs) into Arizona was confirmed Sunday by officials of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Arizona becomes the second state in which AHBs have been found in the United States.

The AHB swarm was found in a Arizona State Department of Agriculture trap 2 miles north of Sasabe, Ariz., in Pima County, on July 9 during a regular inspection of the trapline. When a preliminary examination determined the swarm was likely to be Africanized, the bees were destroyed and samples were taken for laboratory analysis.

USDA officials are working with Arizona officials to monitor the spread of AHBs into the state and to minimize their impact on agriculture and people.

Steve Sheppard, an entomologist with USDA's Agricultural Research Service, made the official identification at the ARS Bee Research Laboratory in Beltsville, Md.

The Agricultural Research Service has on-going scientific investigations dealing with ways to manage AHBs at four laboratories located in Texas, Arizona, and Louisiana as well as Maryland.

Several weeks ago, an isolated nest of AHBs was found in Tucson. Because no other AHBs swarms were found in the area, that swarm was considered an isolated event and probably brought to the Tucson area by human-assisted transport.

AHBs are the descendants of honeybees imported from Africa to Brazil in 1956. They have been spreading north and south from Brazil since their release to the wild in 1957.

In October 1990, AHBs migrated for the first time into the United States near Hidalgo, Texas, in the Rio Grande Valley. AHB swarms have also been artificially introduced into the United States in the past by ships arriving from South and Central America. Such swarms are found and destroyed by inspectors with USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

Honeybees are vital to U.S. agriculture. They pollinate more than \$10 billion worth of crops each year in this country.

No honeybees are native to the New World. The honeybees considered domestic to the U.S. are decedents of swarms brought by Europeans in colonial times.

"The AHB is not the marauding villain that Hollywood and folklore have painted it as. But these bees are more defensive and are more likely to sting in greater numbers and with less provocation if they are disturbed," said Ralph Bram, ARS National Program Leader for medical entomology.

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*NOTE TO EDITORS: For more information on USDA AHB programs contact Kim Kaplan, ARS Information Staff, Room 448, 6303 Ivy Lane, Greenbelt, MD 20770, telephone 301-344-2446.*

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**NEW COMPUTER RESEARCH TEAM TO INTERPRET GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE**

WASHINGTON, July 13--Scientists from four federal agencies are working to turn computers into crystal balls to more accurately explain how the environment might change in the coming decades.

"We need to be able to take into account future global changes and predict how new laws and regulations might affect local and regional environments as well as agricultural and business economies," said Donn DeCoursey, a U.S. Department of Agriculture researcher on a new inter-agency computer modeling team at Fort Collins, Colo.



"We have to be able to assess how potential climate changes would alter weather and precipitation patterns, land use, crop production, water supplies for farms and cities, and native plants, wildlife and endangered species," he said.

DeCoursey said the nine-member team is starting to analyze effects of possible changes such as higher or lower temperatures, elevated levels of carbon dioxide and different amounts of rainfall.

"Policy makers, farmers and ranchers, agricultural specialists, environmentalists and others need more information on what changes to expect so they can prepare if they have to," said DeCoursey. He is a hydraulic engineer in USDA's Agricultural Research Service.

DeCoursey and colleagues from USDA's Forest Service and Soil Conservation Service and from the U.S. Department of the Interior's U.S. Geological Survey form the new Terrestrial Ecosystems Regional Research and Analysis (TERRA) Laboratory in Fort Collins.

DeCoursey said the TERRA team will coordinate the computer studies so that findings can be assessed and provided directly to scientists seeking ways to cope with global change or to slow, halt or even reverse such change.

"One goal is to link land and environmental models to socioeconomic models that work at different geographic scales, such as local, regional, and global," DeCoursey said. "Another goal is to make it easier to combine or use models and data now in different computer formats."

DeCoursey said the TERRA lab is currently working with the Consortium for International Earth Science Information Network, a publicly funded non-profit corporation. Its mission is to expedite access to, and the use and understanding of, information on global change world-wide.

He added that the lab is also cooperating with Colorado State University in developing computer techniques TERRA and other teams can use to keep policy makers informed about the significance of potential changes to ecosystems created by proposed legislation. A specialist from IBM is helping to interpret databases to be used in this project.

"This is just the beginning of what we hope will involve many more federal, state, university and private industry groups," he said.

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*NOTE TO EDITORS: For details, contact Donn DeCoursey, hydraulic engineer, Terrestrial Ecosystems Regional Research and Analysis Laboratory, Agricultural Research Service, USDA, Fort Collins, Colo. 80521. Telephone: (303) 490-8390.*

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Release No. 0566.93

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## **USDA CHANGING ANIMAL DISEASE STATUS OF FRANCE**

WASHINGTON, July 13--The U.S. Department of Agriculture is declaring France free of rinderpest and foot-and-mouth disease. This action will allow the French to export milk products and certain meat products, such as beef and lamb, to the United States.

"France has had no outbreaks of FMD since 1981 and no rinderpest since 1870," said Billy G. Johnson, deputy administrator for veterinary services in USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. "We have carefully evaluated France's animal health program for FMD and rinderpest and believe it is appropriate to recognize the country as free of these diseases."

Certain restrictions will remain on the importation of French meat products from ruminants because bovine spongiform encephalopathy, a fatal neurological disease of ruminants, exists in France. In addition, France borders countries considered by USDA to be affected with FMD and imports live animals and meat products from FMD countries under less restrictive conditions than the United States.

To minimize any risk to U.S. livestock, French animal health officials must certify that uncooked meat products have been handled in a manner that prevents contact with meat from countries affected

by FMD or rinderpest. In addition, certification will have to indicate that imported French meat products could not introduce BSE into the United States.

Swine and swine meat products from France will remain prohibited because of the presence of hog cholera and swine vesicular disease in that country.

The action was announced as a final rule in the July 8 Federal Register.



Release No. 0567.93

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#### **U.S. TO DONATE BUTTER TO ALBANIA**

WASHINGTON, July 13--The United States will donate \$9.6 million worth of butter (including transportation) to Albania, according to Christopher E. Goldthwait, acting general sales manager for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service.

The Albanian government will sell the 5,000 tons of butter under free market conditions. Part of the proceeds will be used to finance storage and distribution of the butter. The remaining proceeds will fund humanitarian and developmental activities for individuals involved in the Albanian agricultural sector.

The donation will be made under Section 416(b) of the Agricultural Act of 1949, which authorizes the donation of surplus commodities owned by USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation to developing countries. The program is administered by FAS.

The supply period of the donation is fiscal 1993.

For more information, contact James F. Keefer, FAS, (202) 720-5263.



Release No. 0568.93

Sally Klusaritz (202) 720-7115

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#### **UNITED STATES DONATES BUTTEROIL TO MEXICO**

WASHINGTON, July 13--The United States will donate 3,000 metric tons of butteroil to Mexico, according to Christopher E. Goldthwait, acting general sales manager of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service.

This \$5.3 million donation will be used to reach more than 700,000 participants in school feeding programs.

The donation was made under Section 416(b) of the Agricultural Act of 1949, which authorizes the donation of surplus commodities owned by USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation to needy people overseas.

For further information, contact James F. Keefer, FAS (202) 720-5263.



Release No. 0570.93

Steve Kinsella (202) 720-4623

#### **ESPY NAMES COUNTIES IN SIX MIDWEST STATES ELIGIBLE FOR EMERGENCY LOANS**

Washington, July 13--Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy today named counties in six midwestern states eligible for emergency loans because of crop losses due to heavy rains, flooding and other severe weather in the last few months.

The six states are Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. The loans will be made by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farmers Home Administration.



Espy said the loans are in addition to the major farm program flexibility changes he announced July 6 to help ease the effects of the weather on producers in the upper midwest (USDA release no. 0545.93).

Espy recently toured parts of Iowa, Minnesota, South Dakota and Wisconsin to see firsthand the impacts of heavy rains in those areas. "These people are hurting," Espy said. "The action we took last week was a step to help them salvage their farming operations. Today's action will provide loans to help assist farmers in recovering from their losses."

Illinois: Sixty counties were named eligible because of losses due to excessive rainfall and flooding, which occurred on April 1 through July 1, and continuing.

Thirty-eight counties were named as primary disaster areas. They are Adams, Alexander, Boone, Bureau, Calhoun, Carroll, De Kalb, Du Page, Gallatin, Hancock, Hardin, Henderson, Henry, Jackson, Jersey, Jo Daviess, Johnson, Kane, Lake, Lee, McHenry, Madison, Massac, Mercer, Monroe, Ogle, Pike, Pope, Pulaski, Randolph, Rock Island, St. Clair, Saline, Stephenson, Union, Whiteside, Williamson and Winnebago.

Twenty-two other counties were named because they are contiguous to the primary counties. They are Brown, Clinton, Cook, Franklin, Greene, Hamilton, Kendall, Knox, La Salle, McDonough, Macoupin, Marshall, Morgan, Perry, Putnam, Schuyler, Scott, Stark, Warren, Washington, White and Will.

Iowa: All 99 counties in the state were named because of crop losses due to various weather disasters in the state this year, including winter kill and cool wet growing conditions in January and continuing, and cool weather, heavy rains and flooding beginning in the spring and continuing.

Minnesota: Twenty-nine counties were named because of losses due to heavy rains, and flooding from April 1 and continuing. Twelve counties were named as primary disaster areas--Carver, Chippewa, Faribault, Freeborn, Goodhue, Houston, Lac qui Parle, LeSueur, Martin, McLeod, Ramsey and Scott.

Seventeen other counties were named because they are contiguous to the primary counties. They are Anoka, Big Stone, Dakota, Dodge, Fillmore, Hennepin, Kandiyohi, Meeker, Olmsted, Rice, Steele, Swift, Wabasha, Waseca, Washington, Winona and Wright.

Nebraska: Fifty-one counties were named because of losses due to heavy rains, and flooding from March 7 and continuing. Twenty-two counties were named as primary disaster areas. They are Antelope, Burt, Butler, Cass, Colfax, Cuming, Dodge, Douglas, Fillmore, Gage, Holt, Jefferson, Knox, Madison, Merrick, Nance, Nemaha, Otoe, Pierce, Saunders, Thurston and Washington.

Twenty-nine other counties were named because they are contiguous to the primary counties. They are Boone, Boyd, Cedar, Clay, Dakota, Dixon, Garfield, Greeley, Hall, Hamilton, Howard, Johnson, Keya Paha, Lancaster, Loup, Nuckolls, Pawnee, Platte, Polk, Richardson, Rock, Saline, Sarpy, Seward, Stanton, Thayer, Wayne, Wheeler and York.

South Dakota: Thirty-two South Dakota counties were named due to flooding, heavy rains, hail, high winds, and cool growing season, which began on April 1, and continuing. Seventeen counties were named as primary disaster areas. They are Aurora, Beadle, Brown, Charles Mix, Clark, Codington, Davison, Day, Douglas, Grant, Gregory, Hamlin, Jerauld, Marshall, Roberts, Sanborn and Spink.

Fifteen counties were named because they are contiguous to the primary counties. The counties are Bon Homme, Brookings, Brule, Buffalo, Deuel, Edmunds, Faulk, Hand, Hanson, Hutchinson, Kingsbury, Lyman, McPherson, Miner and Tripp.

Wisconsin: Thirty-three counties were named because of losses due to an icy winter, heavy rains, flash flooding, tornadoes, and high winds from Jan. 1, through May 30, and continuing. Twenty counties were named as primary disaster areas. They are Buffalo, Chippewa, Clark, Dunn, Florence, Forest, Jackson, Juneau, Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon, Menominee, Oneida, Pepin, Pierce, Price, Rusk, Shawano, Vernon and Vilas.

Thirteen other counties were named because they are contiguous to the primary counties. They are Ashland, Barron, Bayfield, Eau Claire, Iron, La Crosse, Monroe, Polk, Sawyer, St. Croix, Taylor, Trempealeau and Washburn.

Espy said farmers in all counties named today have eight months to apply for the loans to help cover part of their actual losses. To be eligible, they must have suffered a 30-percent loss of normal production, be able to repay the loan and any other loans, be unable to get credit elsewhere and have adequate security.





Release No. 0571.93  
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## **BACTERIA FEND OFF DRY ROT IN POTATOES**

WASHINGTON, July 14--Bacteria discovered in Wisconsin potato fields could provide a natural replacement for synthetic chemicals to ward off a potato disease known as dry rot, U.S. Department of Agriculture scientists say.

Plant pathologist David A. Schisler of USDA's Agricultural Research Service said the bacteria can reduce the size of the decayed area in an infected potato and, in some cases, totally prevent the disease in stored potatoes.

Dry rot is caused by a fungus, *Fusarium sambucinum*, that infects potatoes in the field and in storage. The fungus enters the tubers through wounds in their skin and causes dry, crumbling decay. Losses due to this disease can total 60 percent of a stored crop.

Schisler said six bacterial strains found in the Wisconsin soil samples in 1990 are under study at the National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research at Peoria, Ill. He and colleagues are determining which of the strains are most effective against dry rot and could be easily mass-produced.

"All commonly grown commercial cultivars of potatoes are susceptible to this disease," Schisler said. "It's unlikely we can continue to adequately control dry rot by applying a post-harvest fungicide."

Only one fungicide is approved for dry rot on harvested potatoes. And, he said, recent studies found that 75 percent of fungus samples resisted post-harvest treatment.

"There is a control void here that biological control agents are well-suited to fill," Schisler said. He and colleagues at Peoria selected the six most promising bacterial strains for dry rot biocontrol from among 350 strains screened from the Wisconsin fields.

Studies to develop liquid culture and formulation technologies needed to mass produce storable, effective biocontrol agents are also underway, said Patricia J. Slininger, a chemical engineer at the Peoria center.

"A wettable powder formulation composed of dried bacterial cells and a carrier is being considered," she said. "Such a product would be handled and applied much like wettable powder fungicides currently used."

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*NOTE TO EDITORS: For details contact David A. Schisler and Patricia J. Slininger, National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research, Agricultural Research Service, USDA, Peoria, Ill. 61614. Telephone: (309) 685-4011.*

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Release No. 0572.93  
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## **USDA APPROVES EMERGENCY FOOD STAMPS FOR ILLINOIS**

WASHINGTON, July 13--Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy said today the U.S. Department of Agriculture has approved emergency food stamps for flood victims in 12 counties in Illinois.

USDA's Food and Nutrition Service approved the state's application July 12, the same day it was received. It will allow emergency food stamps to be issued for 14 days to people who may be temporarily eligible.

"This disaster has left thousands of people in need of food assistance," Espy said. "One of our priorities is to ensure access to food for all those affected by the flooding."

Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Food and Consumer Services Ellen Haas said, "We are working closely with state and local officials to provide effective and responsive help for people's food needs."

Haas said Illinois will begin taking applications today for emergency food stamps, and will accept applications through July 26. Haas, who oversees USDA's food assistance programs, said people who are eligible will receive their food stamps the day after they apply.

Espy said eligible people will receive a month's worth of benefits. "For a family of four, that could be up to \$370 worth of food assistance," he said.

Espy also said people who are not usually eligible for food stamps may qualify temporarily if they have lost income or food as a result of the flooding. People who already were participating in the Food Stamp Program may receive replacement benefits if they lost food or food stamps.

The counties that have been approved for emergency issuance are: Adams, Calhoun, Carroll, Hancock, Henderson, Henry, Jersey, Jo Daviess, Mercer, Pike, Rock Island, and Whiteside.

The state of Illinois will notify people where local issuance centers will be established.

Added Espy, "We are working with officials in the other flooded states and we stand ready to respond as additional states ask for emergency food stamps."



Release No. 0574.93

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## **USDA ANNOUNCES DATES FOR DAIRY PROMOTION AND RESEARCH REFERENDUM**

WASHINGTON, July 14--Eligible dairy farmers can vote Aug. 5 through 16 on whether to continue the National Dairy Promotion and Research Program, the U.S. Department of Agriculture announced today.

Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Marketing and Inspection Services Eugene Branstool said dairy farmers producing milk for commercial use during April 1993 will be eligible to vote in the mail referendum. For the program to continue, a simple majority of those voting must favor it.

Individual producers can obtain ballots, instructions for completing the ballot and return envelopes at ASCS county offices from July 21 through Aug. 16, or by calling 1-800-745-5417.

Cooperatives who wish to bloc vote on behalf of their producer members must have advised their members by July 6 as to how they will vote and must provide official ballots to members for individual voting. However, producer members may choose to cast individual ballots.

The National Dairy Promotion and Research Program, which is authorized by the Dairy and Tobacco Adjustment Act of 1983, is administered by a 36-member board appointed by the secretary of agriculture. Dairy farmers finance the program with a 15-cent per hundredweight assessment on all milk produced and marketed commercially in the 48 contiguous states. The act allows dairy farmers to direct up to 10 cents per hundredweight of the assessment for contributions to qualified regional, state or local promotion and research programs.

Although the referendum is from Aug. 5-16, most producers will have ballots before the voting period begins. Ballots postmarked prior to Aug. 5 will be accepted. Ballots postmarked after Aug. 16 and incomplete ballots will not be counted.

"USDA is making every effort to distribute referendum information to all eligible producers," said Branstool. Any producer needing more information can call USDA toll free at 1-800-858-7501 until Aug. 16.

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Release No. 0575.93

Steve Kinsella, Tom Amontree,  
or Mary Dixon (202) 720-4623

## **ESPY ANNOUNCES EMERGENCY FUNDS AND PROGRAM CHANGES FOR FARMERS**

DES MOINES, Iowa, July 14--Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy today announced several program changes to assist farmers experiencing disasters and joined President Clinton in making a request to Congress for up to \$900 million for immediate emergency agriculture assistance and \$45 million for cleanup. This is part of the president's nearly \$2.5 billion emergency package.



"I've been in the region four times in less than three weeks and the situation is not getting any better. People need help and they need it now," said Espy, who was touring disaster sites in Iowa today with the president.

Today's visit to Iowa marked the fourth stop to the flooded midwest area by Espy who has been working to bring assistance to the farmers and communities affected by the disaster as quickly as possible. The agriculture announcements today are in addition to those announced July 6 including program changes and funds for disaster assistance (USDA release no. 0545.93).

The assistance for farmers will be at the same level provided to victims of other recent disasters such as Hurricane Andrew. The farm assistance portion of the request to Congress includes:

- ◆ \$600 million for immediate disaster assistance to farmers. This would be in addition to the \$100 million already appropriated and released by the president. The assistance would be provided at the same level that was provided to victims of other recent disasters such as Hurricane Andrew;

- ◆ an additional \$300 million in contingency funding which would be made available by the president if necessary; and

- ◆ the president is asking Congress for authority to use funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation if the disaster funds requested are not sufficient to cover all the disaster payments.

The request to Congress will also ask for \$45 million for USDA programs for cleanup activities including debris removal and restoration of farmland.

The breakdown for cleanup funds includes:

- ◆ \$20 million for the Emergency Conservation Program of the Agricultural Stabilization Conservation Service. This money would be used for debris removal and grading and shaping of farmland.

- ◆ \$25 million for the Emergency Watershed Program of the Soil Conservation Service. The SCS would use these funds to work with local communities in providing technical assistance and cost sharing for actions needed to open and restore water courses and protect homes, businesses, schools, road crossings and agricultural land.

The program changes announced by Espy today that do not need Congressional approval include:

- ◆ The USDA is in the process of amending the Farmer-Owned Reserve regulations to allow producers to enter the FOR who did not meet the earlier deadline of April 30. Producers with warehouse-stored FOR loans would be allowed to rotate warehouse loan collateral with farm-stored new crop production.

- ◆ Regulations are being amended to allow producers in disaster areas with 1992 wheat or feedgrain loans that mature in June, July or August the opportunity to request an extension of such loans to Sept. 30. Producers in disaster affected areas with 1992 soybean loans that mature in June, July or August would be given the opportunity to request a delay of settlement of such loans until Sept. 30.

- ◆ The ASCS has been directed to expeditiously handle requests in disaster affected areas for release of Conservation Reserve Program acreage for emergency haying and grazing on a county-by-county basis. This will allow producers who utilize their CRP acreage for haying or grazing to sell or rent for unrestricted use. The annual CRP payment will be reduced by 50 percent for the acreage hayed or grazed.

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Release No. 0576.93  
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## ELECTRIC PYRAMIDS ZAP HOUSEFLIES

WASHINGTON, July 15--Scientists with the U.S. Department of Agriculture have invented a three-foot-high, molded-plastic pyramid that controls house-flies which breed on farms and migrate to nearby suburbs.

Lawrence G. Pickens, one of the inventors of the pyramid, said solar-powered electric grids on the sides and top produce a weak electric current which provides just enough of a shock to zap the houseflies. "Flies--but not beneficial insects--seem to be attracted to the light reflected off the white plastic," he said. The pyramid is harmless to humans, animals and birds.

Pickens, an entomologist with USDA's Agricultural Research Service, said the pyramid was designed for use on farms that generate manure-bred houseflies. "They are unsanitary and can become a major nuisance at neighboring homes," he said. "With so many people moving into the suburbs, farm-bred flies have become, in some instances, subjects of lawsuits."

On an average farm, controlling flies with insecticides can cost a farmer \$5,000 a year.

Pyramids could be placed along the flyway on farms, between the manure where they breed and the areas where they become pests, Pickens explained. "In some cases, they would be effective at home sites to intercept the pests before they get into the kitchen."

Other potential uses, he said, would be at beaches, zoos, landfills and feedlots--"anywhere that houseflies can breed."

He said the fly-zapping pyramid operates completely on solar power. No batteries are required and the solar pack can be easily replaced. Practically maintenance free, the pyramid needs only an occasional cleaning during the fly season.

Over the past 16 years, Pickens and colleagues at the Beltsville, Md., research center developed and refined the pyramid concept to control farm-bred houseflies. About five years ago, they began developing the electronic zapper:

Pickens said ARS signed a cooperative research and development agreement with Olson Products, Inc. of Medina, Ohio, which recently began marketing the first commercial version of the pyramid to farmers for under \$400. According to the company, a lower-priced model of the pyramid for home use may be on the market soon.

To be effective, Pickens said, the pyramids should be used in conjunction with other on-the-farm fly controls. Barns should be cleaned frequently and the manure should be dried or composted and turned once a week. Adding baited traps at the fly-producing sites help to further reduce flies.

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*NOTE TO EDITOR: For details, contact Lawrence G. Pickens, entomologist, Beltsville Agricultural Research Center, Agricultural Research Service, USDA, Beltsville, Md. 20705; telephone (301) 504-8274.*

*A black and white glossy print of the photograph is available from Photography Division, Rm. 4404-S, OPA, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250; telephone (202) 720-6633. Order by negative number.*

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Release No. 0577.93  
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#### **ESPY NAMES SIX MEMBERS TO NATIONAL PORK BOARD**

WASHINGTON, July 15--Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy today announced six appointments to the 15-member National Pork Board.

The six were chosen from individuals nominated by the National Pork Producers Delegate Body in Denver, Colo., March 3-6.

Appointed for 3-year terms are: Producers--Robert W. Ivey, Goldsboro, N.C.; Arnold E. Stuthman, Platte Center, Neb.; Raymond N. Hanks, Aurora, Ill.; James R. Lerwick, Pine Bluff, Wyo.; and Importer--Ole Nielsen, Madison, N.J. Richard H. Jones, a producer from Calhoun, Ky., is appointed for a 1-year term.

Established under the Pork Promotion, Research and Consumer Information Act of 1985 and initially appointed in 1986, the National Pork Board carries out a program designed to strengthen the position of pork in the marketplace. The program is funded by a mandatory assessment of 0.35 percent of the market value of all hogs sold in the United States and an equivalent amount on imported hogs, pork, and pork products.

One-third of the board is appointed each year.



Release No. 0578.93  
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#### **USDA PROPOSES TO EXPAND ACCESS TO FLORIDA ANIMAL IMPORT CENTER**

WASHINGTON, July 15--The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service has proposed regulations to make it easier and less costly for animal importers to use the Harry S Truman Animal Import Center in the Florida Keys.

"We are proposing to allow more efficient and frequent use of this high-security quarantine facility at Fleming Key, Fla.," said Billy G. Johnson, deputy administrator of APHIS' veterinary services.

Under current regulations, APHIS accepts applications from animal importers and holds an annual lottery to allocate access to the import center, Johnson said. As part of the application, the prospective importers also submit a letter of credit for \$50,000, which helps pay the costs of qualifying animals for importation through the center.

Johnson said APHIS spends about \$32,000 a month to keep the center ready to accept imported animals for quarantine. In recent years, the import center has received imported animals about once a year.

"Our current system discourages small importing companies who cannot afford to apply for use of the center, while large importers are submitting multiple applications," Johnson said.

Johnson said the proposal lowers the deposit APHIS requires before accepting an application to \$32,000 in cash, certified check or money order. APHIS will deduct expenses incurred for maintaining the center before entering the cooperative agreement. Small importers would no longer have to compete with larger importers by paying banks for multiple letters of credit.

"The proposed regulations also would reduce APHIS' cost of maintaining the facility by allowing more frequent use of the center," Johnson said. Importers would be charged for maintaining the center until the cooperative agreement is accepted or rejected, but not charged for the period between the return of the agreement and the arrival of the animals.

APHIS' current lottery system gives preference to cattle, sheep, goats, and swine from countries infected with foot-and-mouth disease. The proposed regulations eliminate this preference and put all applicants into one pool.

The proposed rules were published in the July 14 Federal Register. Comments received on or before Sept. 13 will be considered. An original and three copies of written comments on the proposal



may be submitted to Chief, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, USDA, Room 804 Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md. 20782. The comments should refer to docket number 91-165-1.

Comments may be reviewed at USDA, Room 1141, South Building, 14th and Independence Ave, S.W., Washington, D.C., between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. To arrange access to the comment reading room, call (202) 690-2817.



Release No. 0579.93

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Arthur Whitmore (202) 720-4026

## **USDA PROPOSES TO ADD PCFIA TEST FOR OFFICIAL PSEUDORABIES TESTING**

WASHINGTON, July 15--The U.S. Department of Agriculture proposed today to add a sixth test to the list of official diagnostic tests for pseudorabies, a contagious livestock disease.

"The effectiveness and speed of the Particle Concentration Fluorescence Immunoassay (PCFIA) would make this test a valuable tool in the cooperative effort to eradicate pseudorabies," said Billy G. Johnson, deputy administrator of veterinary services in USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

The PCFIA is an automated blood test that is currently used to diagnose brucellosis, an infectious bacterial disease, in cattle and bison. APHIS researchers at the National Veterinary Services Laboratories in Ames, Iowa, discovered the PCFIA test also can effectively diagnose pseudorabies in swine, Johnson said.

Currently five different tests are officially approved for diagnosing pseudorabies in swine. State animal health authorities can use any official test. In some states, producers pay for a portion of testing expenses.

"Several states would be able to use their PCFIA screening equipment more efficiently by conducting tests for both brucellosis and pseudorabies, giving state authorities another option that could ultimately save producers money," Johnson said.

The proposed was published in the July 13 Federal Register. Comments will be considered if received on or before Sept. 13. To submit a written comment, send an original and three copies to Chief, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, USDA, Room 804 Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md. 20782.

Comments received may be reviewed at USDA, Room 1141 South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C., between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Persons wishing to inspect comments are encouraged to call ahead at (202) 690-2817 to facilitate entry into the comment reading room.



Release No. 0580.93

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## **USDA SEEKS TIGHTER TESTING REQUIREMENTS FOR A COMMON POULTRY VACCINE**

WASHINGTON, July 15--The U.S. Department of Agriculture is proposing more stringent standard requirements for testing the Pasteurella Multocida Vaccine, Avian Isolate, in poultry.

A proposed rule would revise the current standard test for potency. A minimum of 16 rather than the current 14 of 20 vaccinated birds would have to survive exposure to pathogenic bacteria of fowl cholera.

"We are proposing tougher standards to demonstrate that the vaccine protects poultry against fowl cholera," said John Payne, acting director of biotechnology, biologics, and environmental protection in USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.



Payne said APHIS is responsible for licensing animal vaccines and other biological products to assure they are pure, safe, potent and effective. This amendment is necessary, Payne said, to provide greater assurance that the vaccine meets the efficacy standard that consumers have come to expect from similar veterinary biological products.

"The new amendment should not have a significant economic impact on veterinary biologics manufacturers," Payne said. "The revised standard is one that many veterinary biologics manufacturers have already achieved."

Notice of this action was published in the July 13 Federal Register.

Comments will be considered if received on or before Sept. 13. An original and three copies of written comments referring to Docket 92-153-1 should be sent to Chief, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, USDA, Room 804 Federal Building, 6505 Belcrest Road, Hyattsville, Md. 20782.

Comments may be reviewed at USDA, Room 1141 South Building, 14th Street and Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C., between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.



Release No. 0581.93

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#### **USDA PROPOSES FEE INCREASES FOR EGG, POULTRY AND RABBIT GRADING**

WASHINGTON, July 15--The U.S. Department of Agriculture is proposing increased fees for certain grading and inspection services for eggs, poultry, rabbits and egg products.

L.P. Massaro, acting administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said, "The fee increases are needed to offset increased salaries and fringe benefits of federal employees and federally licensed state employees providing the service. In addition, the costs for assistance from the Office of the General Counsel and anticipated standardization activities have been added as direct grading and inspection program costs."

Hourly fees for voluntary, industry-requested grading would rise from \$22.24 to \$23.48 for resident service (work of a grader with a regular tour of duty at a plant); from \$30.12 to \$31.44 for non-resident service (intermittent, "as needed," grading); and from \$30.52 to \$32.88 for non-resident grading work on weekends and holidays.

The administrative fee for USDA supervision of voluntary grading and for other overhead expenses would increase from \$.030 to \$.034 per case of shell eggs and from \$.00025 to \$.00029 per pound of poultry in plants using the resident grading program. The minimum administrative fee for poultry and eggs per monthly billing period would rise from \$175 to \$200, and the maximum fee would rise from \$1,750 to \$2,000. The minimum administrative fee for grading rabbits would rise from \$175 to \$200 per monthly billing period.

Hourly fees for special inspection services in egg products plants also would rise. Proposed increases are from \$25.44 to \$26.64 for processing appeals from inspector's decisions.

The Egg Products Inspection Act requires that costs of services other than basic inspection during a normal 40-hour week be paid by the user. The special inspection fees were last increased in November 1992.

Grading services administered by USDA are made available upon request and paid for by the users. The Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 requires user fees to be reasonable and, as nearly as possible, equal to the cost of the service. Current fees have been in effect since November 1992.

The proposed grading and inspection fee increases was published in the July 14 Federal Register. Comments must be received in the office of Janice L. Lockard, Chief, Standardization Branch, Poultry Division, AMS, USDA, Room 2944-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456, on or before Aug. 13.



Release No. 0585.93  
Steve Kinsella (202) 720-4623

## **ESPY ANNOUNCES DATE OF FORUM ON FARM INCOME AND AGRICULTURAL POLICY**

WASHINGTON, July 16--Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy today announced he will hold a forum here on Aug. 2 to solicit suggestions on ways to improve farm income and agricultural exports for U.S. farmers and agribusiness.

"American consumers, and indeed consumers around the world, take for granted that American agriculture will provide a reliable, economic supply of food," said Espy. "But that doesn't happen by accident. It takes the hard work of hundreds of thousands of farmers, ranchers, processors and exporters to get the food from farm to table. During the forum we hope to discuss new strategies to make our already capable agriculture industry even better."

The forum will be held Monday, Aug. 2, from 9 a.m. till 5 p.m. at the Jefferson Auditorium, South Building of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, on Independence Avenue between 12th and 14th Streets, S.W.

The morning session will be devoted to issues addressing farm income and farm policy; the afternoon session will address agricultural trade and development policy and export programs. Farmers, food industry executives, academics and government leaders from around the country will participate.

Espy said USDA also will hold three regional forums on these issues in the Southeast, Southwest and Midwest. Dates and locations will be announced at a later date.

The Aug. 2 farm income and agricultural policy forum is one of several issues forums that Espy is conducting this year around the country. The topics of the other forums include: food safety/meat and poultry inspection; reorganizing/restructuring USDA; rural America -- its protection and development; the environment; solutions to the problem of hunger in America; and reforming crop insurance.



Release No. 0587.93  
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Jim Sanders (202) 205-1772

## **ADMINISTRATION MEETS COURT MANDATE, FILES DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

WASHINGTON, July 16--The draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS) and the Forest Ecosystem Management Assessment Working Group report will be provided today to Judge William Dwyer of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Seattle.

The draft SEIS analyzes the environmental effects of the recommendations made by the working group, one of three inter-agency working groups created after the president's April Forest Conference to help develop the President's forest plan for the Pacific Northwest.

"The President is meeting his commitment to present Judge Dwyer with a scientifically sound and legally responsible plan on time," said Jim Lyons, assistant secretary of agriculture for natural resources and environment. "This is a balanced, innovative and bold strategy that will provide long-term benefits to the economy and the environment. Within the framework of the President's plan, we will begin to prepare timber sales to aid workers and communities in the region."

As part of today's submission to Judge Dwyer, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service did not request the current injunction on timber harvesting be lifted. However, the Forest Service did indicate that they expect to request Judge Dwyer remove the injunction in the near future.

The 90-day public comment period on the draft SEIS will begin after printed copies have been sent to the public and the Environmental Protection Agency publishes a Notice of Availability in the Federal Register, which is expected to occur no later than July 30. It is anticipated that the final SEIS will be released in December with the Record of Decision issued approximately 30 days later.

The full report will be made available as soon as possible, with a target date of late July.



President Clinton's Forest Plan for a Sustainable Economy and a Sustain-able Environment is a comprehensive and innovative blueprint for forest management, economic development, and agency coordination aimed at strengthen-ing the long-term economic and environmental health of the region. President Clinton's plan reflects his commitment to break the gridlock with a coura-geous, new approach that balances economic and environmental concerns.



## Program Announcements-

Release No. 0569.93  
Gene Rosera (202) 720-6734  
Charles Hobbs (202) 720-4026

### USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET RICE PRICES, MARKETING CERTIFICATE RATES

WASHINGTON, July 13--Under Secretary of Agriculture Eugene Moos today announced the prevailing world market prices of milled rice, loan rate basis, as follows:

--long grain whole kernels:	6.75 cents per pound
--medium grain whole kernels:	6.06 cents per pound
--short grain whole kernels:	6.03 cents per pound
--broken kernels:	3.38 cents per pound

Based upon these milled rice world market prices, loan deficiency payment (LDP) rates, gains from repaying price support loans at the world market price, and marketing certificate rates are:

	Loan Gain and LDP Rate	Marketing Certificate Rate
	.....\$/Cwt.....	
--for long grain:	\$2.03	\$0.48
--for medium grain:	\$1.84	\$0.48
--for short grain:	\$1.84	\$0.49

These announced prices and rates are effective today at 3 p.m. EDT. The next scheduled price announcement will be made July 20 at 3 p.m. EDT.



Release No. 0584.93  
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### USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET PRICE AND USER MARKETING CERTIFICATE PAYMENT RATES FOR UPLAND COTTON

Washington, July 15--Randy Weber, acting executive vice president of USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation, today announced the prevailing world market price, adjusted to U.S. quality and location (adjusted world price), for Strict Low Middling (SLM) 1-1/16 inch (micronaire 3.5-3.6 and 4.3-4.9, strength 24-25 grams per tex) upland cotton (base quality) and the coarse count adjustment (CCA) in effect from 5:00 p.m. today through 3:59 p.m. July 22. The user marketing certificate payment rates announced today are in effect from 12:01 a.m. Friday, July 16 through midnight Thursday, July 22.



The Agricultural Act of 1949, as amended, provides that the AWP may be further adjusted if: (a) the AWP is less than 115 percent of the current crop year loan rate for base quality upland cotton, and (b) the Friday through Thursday average price quotation for the lowest-priced U.S. growth as quoted for Middling (M) 1-3/32 inch cotton, C.I.F. northern Europe (USNE price) exceeds the NE price. The maximum allowable adjustment is the difference between the USNE price and the NE price.

A further adjustment to this week's calculated AWP may be made in accordance with this provision. The calculated AWP is 83 percent of the 1992 upland cotton base quality loan rate, and the USNE price exceeds the NE price by 2.66 cents per pound.

Following are the relevant calculations:

I.	Calculated AWP .....	43.41 cents per pound
	1992 Base Loan Rate .....	52.35 cents per pound
	AWP as a Percent of Loan Rate .....	83
II.	USNE Price .....	59.75 cents per pound
	NE Price .....	<u>-57.09</u> cents per pound
	Maximum Adjustment Allowed .....	2.66 cents per pound

Based on a consideration of the U.S. share of world exports, the current level of cotton export sales and cotton export shipments, and other relevant data, no further adjustment to this week's calculated AWP will be made.

This week's AWP and coarse count adjustment are determined as follows:

#### Adjusted World Price

NE Price .....	57.09
Adjustments:	
Average U.S. spot market location .....	11.82
SLM 1-1/16 inch cotton .....	1.55
Average U.S. location .....	0.31
Sum of Adjustments .....	<u>- 13.68</u>
Calculated AWP .....	43.41
Further AWP adjustment .....	<u>- 0</u>
ADJUSTED WORLD PRICE .....	43.41 cents/lb.

#### Coarse Count Adjustment

NE Price .....	57.09
NE Coarse Count Price .....	<u>- 52.69</u>
	4.40
Adjustment to SLM 1-1/32 inch cotton .....	<u>- 3.95</u>
COARSE COUNT ADJUSTMENT .....	0.45 cents/lb.

Because the AWP is below the 1991 and 1992 base quality loan rates of 50.77 and 52.35 cents per pound, respectively, the loan repayment rate during this period is equal to the AWP, adjusted for the specific quality and location plus applicable interest and storage charges. The AWP will continue to be used to determine the value of upland cotton that is obtained in exchange for commodity certificates.

The USNE current price has exceeded the NE current price by more than 1.25 cents per pound for four consecutive weeks and the AWP has not exceeded 130 percent of the 1992 crop year base quality loan rate in any week of the 4-week period. As a result, the current user marketing certificate payment rate is 0.88 cents per pound. This rate is applicable during the Friday through Thursday period for bales opened by domestic users and for cotton contracts entered into by exporters for delivery prior to Sept. 30, 1993. Relevant data are summarized below:

Week	For the Friday through Thursday Period Ending	USNE Current Price	NE Current Price	USNE Current Minus NE Current	Current User Marketing Certificate Payment Rate 1/
		.....	cents per pound	.....	
1	June 24, 1993	59.55	57.93	1.62	0.37
2	July 1, 1993	58.70	57.19	1.51	0.26
3	July 8, 1993	58.15	56.81	1.34	0.09
4	July 15, 1993	60.20	58.07	2.13	0.88

1/ USNE current price minus NE current price minus 1.25 cents.

If the USNE forward price exceeds the NE forward price by more than 1.25 cents per pound for four consecutive weeks and the AWP does not exceed 130 percent of the 1993 crop year base quality loan rate in any week of the 4-week period, a forward user marketing certificate will be issued. As a result the forward user marketing certificate rate is 1.41 cents per pound. This rate is applicable during the Friday through Thursday period for cotton contracted by exporters for delivery after Sept. 30, 1993. Relevant data are summarized below:

Week	For Friday through Thursday Period Ending	USNE Forward Price	NE Forward Price	USNE Forward Minus NE Forward	Forward User Marketing Certificate Payment Rate 1/
		.....	cents per pound	.....	
1	June 24, 1993	58.50	57.15	1.35	0 2/
2	July 1, 1993	58.20	56.50	1.70	0.45
3	July 8, 1993	57.85	56.12	1.73	0.48
4	July 15, 1993	59.75	57.09	2.66	1.41

1/ USNE forward price minus NE forward price minus 1.25 cents.

2/ USNE forward price must exceed NE forward price by 1.25 cents per pound for four consecutive weeks before a forward certificate payment is applicable.

Next week's AWP, CCA and user marketing certificate payment rates will be announced on Thursday, July 22.



## Fact Sheet-

Release No. 0564.93  
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### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE AFRICANIZED HONEYBEE

To help provide background information about the Africanized honeybee (AHB), the U.S. Department of Agriculture has prepared this list of commonly asked questions and answers.

#### 1. Question: Are Africanized honeybees the same as the "killer bees" I've heard about in the media news and the movies?

Answer: Yes and no. The two names do refer to the same bee, but the term "killer bee" is a misnomer that Hollywood picked up and made famous. AHBs are the hybrid of African honeybees brought to Brazil in 1956 and honeybees originally brought to the New World by European colonialists.



Honeybees are not native to the New World. Because of the way AHBs have been portrayed in the movies, some people expect them to go flying around looking for victims to swoop down on, en masse, causing death and destruction. This is not true. In reality, the chances of being killed by honeybees of any sort are less than the chances of being hit by lightning.

**2. Question: How far will AHBs spread into the United States?**

Answer: Nobody knows for certain at this time. Some scientists believe AHBs will thrive only in the southern United States where the winters are relatively mild. Others believe that AHBs will survive anywhere other honeybees do. According to studies conducted by researchers with USDA's Agricultural Research Service, the situation is likely to mirror what has taken place in Argentina. A southern zone will develop where feral honeybees (bees not kept in managed hives) are almost completely Africanized and a northern zone will continue to be populated almost completely by our more familiar bees. Between these two zones will likely exist a transition area in which the two groups interbreed and their behavior will stretch across the entire range of defensiveness.

**3. Question: Where are the AHBs now?**

Answer: As of July 1993, AHBs have spread to about 55 counties in southern Texas. On July 9, 1993, Arizona was officially designated the second state to which AHBs have spread. On the Pacific coast, AHBs have been found as far north as about 300 miles south of San Diego.

**4. Question: How fast will they spread?**

Answer: The speed with which AHBs spread varies from year to year depending on the weather, terrain, and the available food supply. Under average conditions, AHBs spread from 100 to 300 miles per year.

**5. Question: What does an Africanized honeybee look like?**

Answer: To the untrained eye, an Africanized honeybee looks just like any other honeybee, about 3/8 to 1/2 of an inch long. Distinguishing between AHBs and other honeybees is done by trained specialists.

**6. Question: Is one sting from an AHB deadly?**

Answer: No. One sting from an Africanized honeybee is no more or less painful or dangerous than a sting from any other honeybee. The venom of the two types of honey bees is almost identical. But AHBs do tend to sting in greater numbers and with less provocation than the honey bees we are used to in the United States.

It is important to remember that if you are allergic to bee venom, any sting can be dangerous, even life threatening.

**7. Question: What makes AHBs and other bees sting?**

Answer: Honeybees generally sting when their nests are threatened. On average, AHBs are likely to sting in greater numbers and will pursue intruders further than other honeybees. Vibrations from motors such as those on power lawn mowers and bushwackers particularly seem to disturb honeybees. Studies have shown that the stinging response of AHBs is about ten times greater than that of other honey bees. But all honeybees should be treated with caution.

It is not a good idea to swat honeybees buzzing around you. When aroused, honeybees release an alarm/attack pheromone--a chemical compound that carries a communication signal. The pheromone and swatting an angry bee may get some of the pheromone on you. The pheromone will draw more bees to the victim being attacked.

**8. Question: How many times can an AHB sting?**

Answer: Like all honeybees, an AHB can only sting once. They die shortly after stinging because they leave the stinger in the wound with a tiny venom sac attached.

**9. Question: What should I do if I am stung?**



Answer: The presence of the venom sac is why you should never try to squeeze a stinger out. Squeezing is only likely to inject more venom. Instead scrap a stinger out with a finger nail or card edge. If you receive multiple stings or are allergic to bee venom, you should seek medical attention immediately.

**10. Question: What should I do if AHBs or other bees start to sting me?**

Answer: Run. Cover your head with a jacket or sweater and run to get inside the nearest car or house. AHBs have been known to follow victims as much as a quarter of a mile from the nest or hive.

**11. Question: Am I likely to see AHBs, once they move into an area?**

Answer: If you see honeybees now, you will probably see Africanized honeybees once they move into the area. If you don't notice honeybees now, you are not likely to see AHBs. The most common sighting is to see a swarm of bees as they look for a new home, either flying about or resting on a tree branch or railing. Don't mess with any bees.

AHBs are less discriminating than other honeybees when it comes to nesting sites. They will build nests in the ground, in cavities in trees or buildings, under bridges, and in utility boxes if they can find a hole through which to enter. To keep swarms from taking up residence in a building or utility box, seal cracks and holes or cover them with small-gauge wire mesh.

**12. Question: Why is the U.S. Department of Agriculture involved with AHBs?**

Answer: Honeybees are a vital link in U.S. agriculture. Each year, pollination by honeybees adds at least \$10 billion to the value of more than 90 crops in this country, including apples, cantaloupes, cucumbers, and almonds. Many of our crops originated in the Old World and evolved with honeybees as their natural pollinators, so we need to provide them to pollinate these fruits and vegetables now. They also produce about \$150 million worth of honey each year. Domestic honeybees that interbreed with AHBs may become harder to manage as pollinators and may be less effective for producing honey.

**13. Question: What is USDA doing about the AHBs?**

Answer: The Agricultural Research Service, USDA's chief research agency, has scientists at four laboratories developing ways to manage domestic honeybees in areas where AHBs spread, studying feral honeybee populations in areas where AHBs have not yet arrived so they can track changes as they occur, and devising ways to minimize adverse human-AHB interactions. ARS also makes official identifications of AHBs when they spread to new localities. The Extension Service is developing and helping to distribute educational materials to beekeepers and the general public on the best ways to live with the Africanized honeybee. The Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service assists in monitoring the advance of the AHB. In addition, APHIS provides some equipment to states for AHB identification as well as traps for monitoring. APHIS also maintains and monitors AHB traps at U.S. ports. USDA is also working directly with states and local organizations to plan for dealing with the AHB and encouraging beekeepers to maintain European stocks of honeybees.

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